

emplacement and an observation post we are building in Hooge Cabaret. This was proceeding very well as far as the construction work is concerned, but we are badly handicapped for crushed stone for the concrete. We are now using old bricks which we break to right size. Many of the brick, however, are soft and do not make good material. Although we are thus handicapped our men are doing good work and are very much interested in it. After inspecting West Poperinghe line we drove through Poperinghe to the East Poperinghe line, where we inspected the observation posts, machine gun emplacements, shelters, etc., that are being constructed by Royal Engineers and by our Engineers. A few shells were being fired into the area but not enough to become a menace. The shells that reach the ground before exploding are not as bad as those with time fuse that explode at an altitude and scatter shrapnel. In the latter case the steel helmet comes in very conveniently. In the former case if the shell hits within a couple of hundred yards, you drop to the ground and try to get into a depression in the ground or into a trench, which will protect one from the shrapnel which scatters laterally from the bursting shells. The big high-explosive shells will scatter shrapnel for nearly 450 yards. We saw a good many big and little shell holes, but fortunately we were not bothered seriously by shell fire. Got back to camp about 1:45 p. m., but in time for dinner. Spent most of the p. m. at camp working on records, studying Emergency Order for occupying the East Poperinghe Trench System. While it is supposed to be our training period, it is in fact a real order to occupy the trenches with a possibility that they will be attacked and our troops must hold them. They are also within shell fire from the German batteries. Our engineer camps are well to the front now and in some of them the men are living in dugouts.

This morning while on the inspection trip we met Major General Lewis, the new commanding officer of the 30th Division.

*July 21, 1918, Sunday.* Today is the anniversary of the Independence of Belgium, and celebrations are being held in all the churches of Belgium. I was invited to attend the services at Proven, to represent the American forces of this particular Proven area. General Girdwood represented the British. We each had several Staff and Field Officers with us. I was accompanied by Major Lyerly,